

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: August 14, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:50 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Dane Mahern, Chairman
Rozelle Boyd
Ron Gibson
Scott Keller
Becky Langsford
Jackie Nytes
Marilyn Pfisterer
Mike Speedy

Absent Members

Angela Mansfield

BUDGET HEARING

Overview - Director
Division of Administration
Historic Preservation Commission
Division of Planning

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, August 14, 2006. Chair Dane Mahern called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Rozelle Boyd, Ron Gibson, Scott Keller, Becky Langsford, Jackie Nytes, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Mike Speedy. Absent was Angela Mansfield.

Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) Overview - Director

Maury Plambeck, Director of DMD, gave an overview of DMD's budget (Exhibit A, on file in the Council office). Some highlights are as follows:

- Neighborhood Services has adjusted staff by having one administrator over the division and an assistant administrator.
- There is a proposed change in the Planning division to hire a Director of the Regional Transportation Authority.
- Community Economic Development is working on the Central State development and permanent funding for the Housing Trust Fund and has done new construction on the Parkwood site.
- Division of Compliance added staff to handle zoning code enforcement inspections and violations.
- Division of Planning has done a lot of work with neighborhoods this year and has revised their public hearing signs to allow citizens to be more aware of what petitions are in their neighborhoods.
- Historic Preservation Commission has worked on adoption of several plans for historic districts and exploring additional designations.
- The Neighborhood Services staff are available in the community for any services that may arise. This division also led the effort of "City Hall for a Day", where the city services spend the day in city neighborhoods.
- A new state law allows the Weed and Clean Program to put the clean-up bill on the taxes of that particular property.
- The overall DMD budget is over \$40 million, which is an increase of five percent over last year's budget. Majority of this increase is due to additional staff.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if the hiring of a director for the Regional Transportation Authority is a result of funding for the Major Moves. Mr. Plambeck replied in the negative and said the salary for the first year of the director has always been in their budget. Councillor Pfisterer asked if the Mozel Sanders property is going to be sold. Mr. Plambeck said the city no longer wants to maintain ownership and would like to sell the property. Councillor Pfisterer asked how much of DMD is supported by grants. Galen Himmelheber, DMD Finance, said the grants are between 60 and 65 percent of DMD's budget.

Councillor Boyd asked what the state legislature did to give additional leverage in handling abandoned housing. Mr. Plambeck said the state gave the city the ability to put clean up costs on the property tax bill and speed up the time frame that an abandoned house can be redeemed.

Councillor Gibson asked if DMD is comfortable that Economic Development staff can reach future needs. Mr. Plambeck said last year they had major reorganization of that division by putting two divisions together to create efficiency.

Councillor Nytes asked for a recap on added staff. Mr. Plambeck said they are adding staff to Neighborhood Services, Compliance, and the Historic Preservation Commission. Councillor Nytes asked if the additional staff to Historic Preservation and Compliance will be paid by their fees. Mr. Plambeck replied in the affirmative and said the Neighborhood Services positions are paid by fees and taxes. Councillor Nytes asked how Economic Development in DMD compares or differs from Economic Development in the Mayor's Office. Mr. Plambeck said the two complement each other. He said the Indy Partnership also works with both these departments.

Division of Administration

Mr. Himmelheber said Administrative Services is made up of nine staff positions and he went on to introduce those staff members. He said the increases in the Administrative budget are: group insurance of \$20,000, technology changes of \$15,000, and an increase in their square footage rate of \$7,000. He said there was a decrease in salaries to allow a part-time position in neighborhood services. Mr. Himmelheber said the total budget decreased by \$150,000.

Councillor Nytes asked if they will continue to lease space on Sherman Drive. Mr. Himmelheber replied in the affirmative and said that lease is in the Division of Compliance's budget.

Historic Preservation Commission

David Baker, Administrator of the Historic Preservation, discussed the preservation's budget (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office) and said over the last year they have had several successes and seen their responsibilities grow. He said the Cumberland

Conservation Plan has added 132 buildings, and the revised Chatham-Arch Plan has added 32 commercial industrial buildings to their review responsibilities. Mr. Baker said their budget has increased due to the request for one additional staff position; however, fee increases should be able to cover this additional position. He said the additional staff is needed due to the amount of work load the commission is obtaining. He stated the Historic Preservation's budget has increased \$112,000 over last year's budget.

Chair Mahern said he would like to see an additional staff added to the commission because of how much work they are doing. He said this commission is small; therefore, the additional position will not have an impact on other budgets.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if the proposed position is taking into account the cost of family insurance. Mr. Himmelheber replied in the affirmative and said if the family insurance is not needed the money will go into the General Fund.

Councillor Keller asked if Chatham-Arch and Massachusetts Avenue is one historic district. Mr. Baker replied in the affirmative; however, it does not affect the neighborhood associations.

Councillor Nytes asked if Historic Preservation is fully funded by its fees. Mr. Himmelheber replied in the negative and said in addition to fees the commission is also funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and tax dollars. Councillor Nytes asked to see what fees have been generated by the Preservation. Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, Office of Finance and Management, said Historic Preservation has a sub-fund within the consolidated county and the requested information can be generated.

Division of Planning

Mike Peoni, Administrator of the Division of Planning, gave highlights on the division's staff and the work they conduct. He discussed the division's budget (Exhibit C, on file in the Council office) and said overall the budget is over four million dollars and reflects a decrease of \$23,000 over last year's budget. Mr. Peoni said most of the increases are reflected in Salaries & Fringes due to the reorganization in the division. He also stated that the \$15,000 in Temporary Service is a one time cost to scan information they currently have on microfilm. He said nearly 52% of the division's funding comes from federal grants, 35% comes from fees, and 13% of the division's budget is covered by local tax dollars.

Councillor Pfisterer asked for clarification on the decrease in Line Item 306, Architectural and Engineering Service. Mr. Himmelheber said this is from additional appropriations out of Character 3 to Character 1, which was done the beginning of this year.

Councillor Gibson asked if work is being done on the sign ordinance to allow signage on bus shelters to provide revenue to IndyGo. Mr. Peoni said they will initiate the project

this year.

Councillor Nytes asked how many individuals in the division are funded by grant funds. Mr. Peoni said between the grants and fees every employee is funded in some fashion. Councillor Nytes asked if any of the employees are CDBG funded. Mr. Peoni replied in the affirmative and said a majority of these employees are comprehensive and sub-area planners. Councillor Nytes asked what the division is planning for in funding from the CDBG. Mr. Himmelheber said they are projecting a \$500,000 decrease in CDBG funding.

Councillor Gibson asked how important the CDBG is to community development. Mr. Plambeck said some of the CDBG money goes towards staffing, entities that make applications, and consulting. He said they are cutting in all three areas to balance the money out. He said they are working diligently to get as much money on the streets to different entities as they can.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dane Mahern, Chair
Metropolitan Development Committee

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